

NEAPOLITAN TARANTELLA

Origin: Neapolitan Tarantella, an Italian folk dance is found in many versions throughout Italy. This one, taught by the Hormas was learned from Italians in New York City and was traced back to about 1915. It can be done to most Tarantella music.

Formation: Couples side-by-side facing CCW - W is L of M, hands are behind each other's backs.

PARTS

- 1 Couples both start on R foot. Step-hop FWD on R, then on L foot, swinging free foot behind the other one. Run lightly diagonally FWD to the R (R, L, R), hop on R foot; swing L foot FWD.
Step-hop on L, step-hop on R moving FWD. Dance diagonally FWD to the L w/a L, R, L hop on L foot, swing R foot FWD.
REPEAT all of PART 1
- 2 Face partner, W is on inside of circle. Do a "pas de basque" to own R and L, clapping own hands overhead, or striking tambourine, or snapping fingers. Do a 3/4 turn to own R, L, R finishing so that the R hips are towards partner.
Step SDWD on R foot. Bring L foot to R. Step SDWD on R foot and bump R hips. Turn to own L, w/4 walking steps (L, R, L, R)
Face partner and do a "pas de basque" to L and to R, and turn L w/3 steps 3/4 around so that L hips are towards partner. Step SDWD to partner on L foot. Bring R foot to L foot. Step on L foot and bump partner's L hip. Turn to own R with a R, L, R, L.
- 3 Face partner. Clap own hands and pass partner w/hands extended, R hand FWD, L BKWD. Cross over into partner's place by hopping 4 times on R foot w/L foot extended BKWD. When you have cross over, turn R to face partner using 4 tiny step (L, R, L, R). Now return to original places by passing partner by L shoulder, w/4 step-hops on L foot, then turn to face partner w/4 tiny steps (R, L, R, L).
REPEAT all of PART 3
- 4 Flirting Figure. This is a very flexible figure. M turns solo in place, snapping fingers, small step-hops, or buzz step, improvising flirtatious figures w/body, hands, feet & eyes (Italian style). W orbits around M using a BKWD buzz step (step on R behind L as she moves SDWD L, she toe flirting and using a variety of snaps of the fingers, claps of hands or tambourines. Finish side-by-side w/partner as in PART 1.
- 5 Assume same position as in PART 1, and do a regular goose-kick FWD.
- 6 REPEAT the flirtation figure PART 4.
- 7 Face partner far away. Clap own hands and run towards partner and place R arm around partner's waist as L hand is held high. Start to turn CW, but don't finish turn as you spin out into a solo turn into partner's place, separating as you do so. Now run FWD and put L arm around partner's waist, and spin solo turn into original place.

REPEAT ENTIRE DANCE FROM BEGINNING. Free hands are swung freely and tambourine is hanged from hand to hand as necessary during dance.

DANCE NOTES - ITALY!

